(b) to (d) Andhra Pradesh Government has evinced interest in developing restaurant at Borraguhalu on Railway land. However, as the land asked for is earmarked for developmental works in connection with Railway operations, State Government has been advised that it would not be possible to spare the said land.

Terms and Conditions of Bookstall Agreements on Railways

5154. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the terms and conditions of all the bookstall agreements on all Indian Railways (including M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co.) are equal.

(b) if not, what are the complete details of differences thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to remove all the discrepancies in terms and conditions of the agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The renewal of bookstall agreement for a period of 9 years w.e.f. 1.1.1967 was granted to M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co., and M/s. Higginbothams Ltd., in view of the their past background. In case of other bookstalls, licence is renewed after every 5 years, which is in line with other catering/vending licences on Indian Railways.

(c) While licence fee at the rate of 4% of sales turnover is being charged from M/s. A.H. Wheeler & co. and M/ s. Higginbothams, in case of book stalls of pholanthropic societies and other categories zonal Railways decide their licence fee, which is subject to minimum of 2-1/2% of sales turnover and Rs. 750/- per stall per annum respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

Authorities of SER Hotel, Puri, Convicted by Court

5155. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the authorities of South-Eastern Railway Hotel, Puri have been convicted by the court for violation of the Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the court had earlier directed the South-Eastern Railway Hotel, (BNR Hotel) to set up an affluents treatment facility within its premises by June 30, 1995;

(d) if so, why the South-Eastern Railway Hotel failed to comply with it;

(e) the details of the executives responsible for the default; and

(f) what action is being taken or has been taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Court of SDJM/ Bhubaneshwar, had convicted the Manager of South Eastern Railway Hotel, Puri, with five years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs. 5000/-.

Orissa State Pollution Control Board had earlier issued a Notice under section 33-A of the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution act, 1974, directing the South Eastern Hotel at Puri for taking necessary steps for treatment of the effluent before 31.12.1995. Immediate steps were taken by South Eastern Railway for improvement of the soak-pits to arrest the discharge of the polluted sewage and action was initiated to install an effluent treatment plant. Meanwhile a notice was served to Puri Hotel vide letter dated 9.2.1996 by the State Pollution Control Board.

Subsequently a Writ Petition filed by the South Eastern Railway Hotel at Cuttack High Court was rejected and final Notice was served to the Railway by the Orissa Pollution Control Board dated 18.10.1996. The effluent plant became functional from January/1997 after initial operational problems. South Eastern Railway has moved an appeal in the appellate court against the orders of SDJM/Bhubaneshwar, and the case is fixed for hearing on 20.6.2000.

Mobile Library-Cum-Bookstall in Long Distance Trains

5156. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contracts for mobile library-cum-bookstall in long distance trains on Indian Railways are being awarded to eligible categories, as per letter No. 75.TG.III/461/37/ML dated 21st November, 1978; and

(b) if so, what are the details with names of trains, where this essential